

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please make the following amendments to the claims:

1-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for use with a computer for tracking innovation awards as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data related to a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;

storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records, wherein the storing includes a step of tracking data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures submissions;

providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and

determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an intellectual property licensing rights ~~marketing opportunity assessment~~ utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

54. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
tracking the distribution of one of a plurality of gifts given to one of the plurality of innovators as the non-monetary innovation award.
55. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
tracking data associated with each of a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes at least one of cost and supplier.
56. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
tracking data associated with a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes a quantity in stock.
57. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
tracking the number of innovation disclosures processed during a specific time period.
58. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
generating a form letter associated with one of the innovation awards.
59. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
storing IP coordinator contact data, the IP coordinator associated with an innovator.
60. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:

tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon submission of the innovation disclosure associated with the innovation award.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
- tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon issuance of the intellectual property asset associated with the innovation award.
62. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
- tracking an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.
63. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the tracking step further comprises the step of:
- tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.

64. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to track innovation awards as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, comprising:

logic configured to receive intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data related to a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;

logic configured to store the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records, wherein the logic configured to store the intellectual property asset protection data includes logic configured to track data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures submissions;

logic configured to provide information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and

logic configured to determine by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, including generating an intellectual property licensing rights ~~marketing opportunity assessment~~ utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to track the distribution of one of a plurality of gifts given to one of the plurality of innovators as the non-monetary innovation award.
66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to track data associated with each of a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes at least one of cost and supplier.
67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to track data associated with a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes a quantity in stock.
68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to track the number of innovation disclosures processed during a specific time period.
69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to generate a form letter associated with one of the innovation awards.
70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:
logic configured to store IP coordinator contact data, the IP coordinator associated with an innovator.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:

logic configured to track data associated with an innovation award distributed upon submission of the innovation disclosure associated with the innovation award.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:

logic configured to track data associated with an innovation award distributed upon issuance of the intellectual property asset associated with the innovation award.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:

logic configured to track an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to track further comprises:

logic configured to track data associated with an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.

75. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a computer for tracking innovation awards as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, comprising the steps of:

- receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data related to a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;
- storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records, wherein the storing includes a step of tracking data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures submissions;
- providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and
- determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an intellectual property licensing rights marketing opportunity assessment utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
tracking the distribution of one of a plurality of gifts given to one of the plurality of innovators as the non-monetary innovation award.
77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
tracking data associated with each of a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes at least one of cost and supplier.
78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
tracking data associated with a plurality of gifts, wherein the data includes a quantity in stock.
79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
track the number of innovation disclosures processed during a specific time period.
80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
generate a form letter associated with one of the innovation awards.
81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:
store IP coordinator contact data, the IP coordinator associated with an innovator.
82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:

tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon submission of the innovation disclosure associated with the innovation award.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:

tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon issuance of the intellectual property asset associated with the innovation award.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:

track an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the tracking step further comprises:

tracking data associated with an innovation award distributed upon publication of data described in the innovation disclosure.

86. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for use with a computer for tracking innovation disclosures by an organization as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, the program comprising the steps of:

- receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;
- determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes;
- storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records;
- providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and
- determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an intellectual property licensing rights ~~marketing opportunity assessment~~ utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

87. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

88. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.
89. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.
90. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, further comprising the step of:
storing innovator data, the data including at least one of an employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.
91. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, further comprising the step of:
storing organization data associated with the innovator, the organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.

92. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to track innovation disclosures by an organization as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, comprising:

- logic configured to receive intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;
- logic configured to determine participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes;
- logic configured to store the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records;
- logic configured to provide information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and
- logic configured to determine by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, including generating an intellectual property licensing rights ~~marketing opportunity assessment~~ utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

93. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

94. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.
95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.
96. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
logic configured to store innovator data, the data including at least one of an employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.
97. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
logic configured to store organization data associated with the innovator, the organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.

98. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a computer for tracking innovation disclosures by an organization as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, comprising the steps of:
- receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;
 - determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes;
 - storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records;
 - providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and
 - determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an intellectual property licensing rights ~~marketing opportunity assessment~~ utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.
99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.
101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.
102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, further comprising the step of:
storing innovator data, the data including at least one of an employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.
103. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98, further comprising the step of:
~~storing~~ storing organization data associated with the innovator, the organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.
104. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, the program further comprising the step of:
tracking data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures ~~submissions~~, so that award costs and inventory can be effectively tracked and managed.
105. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising logic to track data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures ~~submissions~~, so that award costs and inventory can be effectively tracked and managed.
106. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of:
tracking data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards, each innovation award associated with at least one of the innovation disclosures

submissions, so that award costs and inventory can be effectively tracked and managed.

107. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 86, the program further comprising the step of:

determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes, so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, where the logic configured to determine participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes is further configured so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the determining step is configured so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.